

# ARTICLE 9: PICKLEBALL

# ARTICLE 10: RECREATIONAL

# FACILITIES

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Orleans Recreation Advisory Committee



## **ARTICLE 9**

### **Pickleball Development**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$100,000, or any other sum, for the purpose of developing pickle ball courts at a location to be determined by the Select Board, or to take any other action relative thereto. (Select Board)

**Explanation:** This article seeks to fund the development and enhancement of pickleball courts in the Town of Orleans. Due to the increased popularity of the sport, the current number of courts is not enough to sustain our growing pickleball population, which is increasing in size and age range. By allocating funds, the town will have the ability to identify a site with the least residential impact possible, and construct courts to assist in the growing demand for the sport.

Votes in Support

Select Board 5-0

Finance Committee 8-1

Recreation Advisory Committee 7-0



# Article 9

## Pickleball: \$100,000



- Sport has continued to grow in Orleans. Recreation Dept reported that 83 adult players registered in September and 67 in October. 13 youth participated in a fall class.
- 2023 Fall Town Meeting: an article for design of new courts at Bay Ridge Road failed, 207-240. Only 13 minutes of discussion.
- Petition with 115 signatures submitted to Select Board this summer asking for more facilities.
- Four courts at Eldredge Park are very crowded in AM hours, not so in PM.
- Recreation and DPW actively looking at potential sites for courts. More than a half dozen considered. Estimating build costs. Site should not be residential due to noise issues.
- Why a stand alone article? Concerns about resident support.

## **ARTICLE 10**

### **Recreational Facilities and Infrastructure- Design, Engineering, Repairs and Construction**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, the sum of \$850,000, or any other sum, for the purpose of design, engineering, repairs, or construction of recreational facilities and infrastructure as identified in the Town of Orleans/ Nauset Regional Middle School Master Plan in the location identified as Phase 1, and other needs and locations, including private property, as determined by the Recreation Director and the Town Manager, or to take any other action relative thereto. (Select Board)

**Explanation:** This article funds the design, engineering, repairs, and construction of recreational facilities. This includes locations identified as phase 1 in the “Town of Orleans/ Nauset Regional Middle School Master Plan” as well as other locations as determined through collaboration with the Recreation Director and Town Manager.

Votes in Support

Select Board 5-0

Finance Committee 7-2

Recreation Advisory Committee 7-0



# Article 10: Eldredge Park in the heart of Orleans – for 111 years



- In 1913 “Win” Eldredge gave 5 acres of land to the town, *“In consideration of my affection for and interest in the young people of Orleans and my desire to provide a playground for them.”*
- Recreational facilities at Eldredge Park play a vital role in the town of Orleans within walking distance to two schools, Snow Library, and downtown.
- The park supports activities such as tennis, baseball, soccer, and pickleball. It includes a toddler playground for families. Open spaces are ideal for concerts, exercise classes, flag football, or just tossing a frisbee around
- But this property isn’t just about exercise. **Eldredge Park is an invaluable meeting place where neighbors of all ages, interests, and abilities can gather to play, spectate, interact socially, and grow together.**

# Article 10: Why does Eldredge Park Need Work?

- Over the last two decades, only the baseball field has seen substantial physical upgrades.
- The playground was built in the 1990s and is not accessible or in compliance with State regulations.
- The tennis courts are decades old and not safe due to large cracks.
- The entire property is not well lit by street lights.
- No basketball court exists despite multiple efforts to build one over the years.
- Pickleball is bursting at the seams and needs more facilities.

# Article 10: Recreational Master Plan

- In 2022, a Recreational Master Study for Eldredge Park, the Nauset Regional Middle School, and the Elementary School was authorized to take a fresh look at how the three properties could be modified to better fit the outdoor recreational needs of our town. A diverse group of over a dozen stakeholders began their work to produce a cohesive plan.
- The plan was completed in the fall of 2023 and rolled out to town and school groups, receiving broad support. It's an impressive vision of what recreational facilities could look like in the heart of Orleans. It lays out a five phased approach to completely renovate the current facilities, many of which are many decades old. This includes lights, access paths, new courts, new multi-sport fields, better parking, and a general vision for shared community use. Eldredge Park is phase one of the plan.



# Article 10: How would \$850,000 be spent at Eldredge Park?

1. Address immediate safety concerns and long term maintenance needs first, including such projects as repairs to the tennis and pickleball courts and improving accessibility.
2. Fund a substantial design assessment including engineering plans and construction estimates for Eldredge Park.

With any remaining funds, a portion of the following projects might be possible.

- A new playground that meets State requirements for accessibility, including new play equipment, a grassy area, shade structures, seating, and a circuit path for scooters.
- A new full sized basketball court with night lights.
- Rehabilitated tennis and pickleball facilities with a new backboard.
- A new water line for hydration stations at key locations.
- More outdoor lighting for play areas and pathways

